



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/615,876 03/14/96 OYA

T 1232-4253

MORGAN & FINNEGAN  
345 PARK AVENUE  
NEW YORK NY 10154

LM02/1222

EXAMINER

SRIVASTAVA, V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2711

DATE MAILED:

12/22/99

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
**08/615,876**

Applicant(s)

**Takashi Oya**

Examiner  
**Vivek Srivastava**

Group Art Unit  
**2711**



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Oct 12, 1999

☒ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

## Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 3-10, 16, 18, 20-23, and 25-58 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☒ Claim(s) 3-10, 16, 18, 20, 21, 25-40, and 43-58 is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 22, 23, 41, and 42 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☒ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been  
☒ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 22, 23, 41, and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morgan.

Considering claim 22 and 41, Morgan discloses the claimed camera control system for selecting one of a plurality of controllable camera apparatuses connected to a network, and for controlling video display and a camera, comprising obtaining means for obtaining information concerning used statuses of the cameras (if camera is used the status is obtained and displayed). Morgan fails to disclose the claimed camera status display means.

Morgan discloses a camera-status display means for distinguishably displaying used statuses of at least two of the camera apparatuses. It would have been obvious to modify Morgan to include a plurality of user stations to provide a plurality of monitoring locations and it would have been obvious to distinguishably display the used status of the camera to indicate to the user that the camera is being operated by another. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one

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having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Morgan to include the claimed limitation to provide added monitoring stations distinguishably displaying the status of the plurality of cameras thus providing the user with useful information.

Considering claims 23 and 42, Morgan discloses the claimed layout-display means, symbol generating means, camera-status display means display different camera symbols on the basis of the condition where the camera is used by another terminal or by user's own terminal and not used by anyone (fig. 2, different camera symbols are shown if the camera is not used by anyone, camera symbol 3 and 64 indicates "on" and camera symbol 32 indicates off).

### ***Response to Amendment***

#### **Applicant's arguments / Examiner's responses**

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 22, 23, 41 and 42 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 3-10, 16, 18, 20, 21, 25-40, and 43-57 are allowed.

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***Conclusion***

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- 1) Lang - Remote Video Viewing And Recording System For Remotely Occurring Events
- 2) Washing - Personal-Computer-Based Video Production System
- 3) Diner - Adjustable Control Station With Movable Monitors And Cameras For Viewing Systems In Robotics And Teleoperations

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4) Thompson - Synchronization Of Vertical Phase Of The Video Signals In A Video  
System

5) Cortjens et al. - Method For Automatically Adjusting The Pan And Tilt Of A Video  
Conferencing System Camera

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

(703) 305-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

**Or:**

(703) 305 - 5399 (for informal or draft communications, please label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal  
Drive, Arlington. VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner  
should be directed to Vivek Srivastava whose telephone number is (703) 305 - 4038. The  
examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

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supervisor, Andy Faile, can be reached at (703) 305 - 4380.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305 - 3900.

VS

VS 12/17/99

  
ANDREW I. FAILE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
GROUP 2700